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Young Investigator Award

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Winner of
Bioanalysis
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AWARD 2012



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SPECIAL FOCUS
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Young Investigator Award



I am pleased to report that we now have the award presentation of the *Bioanalysis* Young Investigator Award for 2012. The award is organized by the journal *Bioanalysis* and is sponsored by Waters Corporation.

Since the launch of *Bioanalysis* in April 2009, the journal has gone from strength to strength under the auspices of Senior Editors Howard Hill and Brian Booth, as evidenced by the increase in Impact Factor from 1.34 to 3.22, announced this year.

The annual Young Investigator Award feature has developed alongside the journal. For the past 4 years the journal has included an annual Young Investigator feature to highlight the development and talents of the youngest generation in this field. The profiles of international bioanalysts, nominated by their supervisors, have been featured in the journal and on *Bioanalysis Zone*. The 2012 winner was voted for by readers of the journal, members of *Bioanalysis Zone*, and a selection panel from the European Bioanalysis Forum.

Alongside a 1-year print and online subscription to *Bioanalysis*, the winner of the 2012 *Bioanalysis* Young Investigator Award receives a US\$1,000 prize from Waters Corporation and a travel fund to attend this week's event and to make a presentation of their research.





Bioanalysis young investigator: Maria Rambla-Alegre.

Abstract

Maria Rambla-Alegre obtained the European doctorate in March 2011, with the maximum qualification: Excellent "Cum Laude", and has already published 33 articles in reputable scientific journals, presented 61 communications in international symposia, participated in nine research projects, as well as received several awards since 2006. Nowadays, Maria is contracted at Ghent University (Belgium) where she is completing a post-doc. During the time I have known her, I have frequently been impressed by her exceptional capabilities to quickly learn new skills to develop and validate new liquid chromatographic procedures, and by her constant initiative to bring together innovative analytical methods. Maria has always adopted a positive, critical view and shows eagerness to better herself. Besides her exceptional knowledge in LC, she has a sound scientific background in capillary electrophoresis, GC, sample preparation and optimization procedures that allows her to complement her investigations and has resulted in significant papers in the analytical chemistry field. Our research group has greatly benefited from Maria's capabilities, as can be seen in recent publications in the Journal of Chromatography A, Talanta, Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry and other specialized journals that directly represent her work, mainly as corresponding author. It is extremely remarkable that she has published a review of her PhD results. Not everyone has the possibility to publish it. This is a clear sign of the high quality of her research. Compared to other fellows that I have supervised, Maria is undoubtedly the best one. I can, beyond all doubt, give a score of 10/10 to the quality of her research activity. Finally, I would personally like to add that she is an outstanding, serious, independent thinker who is always well informed about the topics she tackles. Maria is also very friendly, a good worker and always willing to help others, which has been a most positive characteristic in creating a good atmosphere within the department. She is a bright and highly efficient person to work with. For all these reasons, I can only strongly recommend Maria to be awarded the Bioanalysis Young Investigator Award.





Bioanalysis young investigator: Dajana Vuckovic.

Abstract

Dajana currently has 21 peer-reviewed articles published or accepted for publication in top analytical chemistry journals including Analytical Chemistry and Angewandte Chemie International Edition. She has co-authored eight book chapters, and made 22 presentations at international conferences such as Pittcon and ASMS conferences. Dajana's commitment to excellence is also illustrated by the awards she has won to date, including a Postdoctoral Fellow Award offered by the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (2010-2012) and the Douglas E Ryan Analytical Chemistry Student Award of the Canadian Society for Chemistry (2010). During her PhD in my group, Dajana excelled in very diverse areas of interest including the development of targeted LC-MS assays for drugs and metabolites, application of in vivo solid-phase microextraction (SPME) in mice and LC-MS metabolomics for the first time, and evaluation of a high-throughput 96-well plate automated SPME system. Since her graduation from my group she has further extended her bioanalytical expertise to proteomics. I think Dajana's excellent research productivity, accomplishments to date, willingness to address complex bioanalytical challenges and extensive expertise in both small molecule and protein bioanalysis make her an excellent candidate for the Bioanalysis Young Investigator Award.





Bioanalysis young investigator: Pan Deng.

Abstract

I would like to nominate Pan Deng for the Bioanalysis Young Investigator Award 2012. Her research projects include developing LC-MS/MS methods for the quantification of small and large molecules to support drug pharmacokinetic studies. During her PhD training in my laboratory, she has gained much experience in developing sensitive LC-MS/MS methods for the measurement of various compounds, especially polar analytes, and published several research and review papers. As part of her PhD project, she also investigated the metabolism of drugs utilizing UPLC-Q/TOF MS. Her efforts in studying drug metabolism study have led to the finding of new metabolites, and unveiling the metabolic pathways of several new drug candidates. She is currently expanding her research into the area of drug toxicity. Hopefully this Young Investigator Award will encourage Deng to have greater achievements.





Bioanalysis Young Investigator: Omnia A Ismaiel.

Abstract

Omnia Ismaiel began working with PPD in 2008 as a postdoctoral fellow and became a full-time research scientist in early 2011. She has extensively studied matrix effects in LC-ESI-MS/MS bioanalysis, evaluating a broad spectrum of matrix lipid compound classes and their relative ion suppression interference effects. Over the past 2 years, Omnia's research has focused on solid-phase microextraction and 2D UPLC separation techniques for analyzing peptides by LC-MS/MS. As part of this work, she assisted engineers from Waters Corporation in designing and testing a prototype Acquity UPLC(®) instrument with 2D technology that is now on the market. More recently, Omnia has contributed major work to our program on developing advanced LC-MS/MS assays for multiple β -amyloid biomarker peptides in CSF, intended to aid in the diagnosis and development of drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease. This work is now reaching a major milestone of formal method validations for three assays, one of which involves close collaboration with the international Global Biomarker Standardization Consortium of the Alzheimer's Association. This work has been very challenging, but also exciting and rewarding for Omnia. She is a highly productive research scientist and very deserving of recognition as a prominent young bioanalytical investigator and nominee of the Bioanalysis Young Investigator Award.





And the winner is



So, I therefore take great pleasure in announcing the winner of the 2012 Young Investigator Award – it is Dr Maria Rambla-Alegre of the University of Ghent. Maria is currently completing her post doc at the University having obtained her doctorate in March 2011, with the maximum qualification: Excellent '*Cum Laude*'. She has already published 33 articles in reputable scientific journals, presented 61 communications in international symposia, participated in 9 research projects, and received several awards.

In nominating Maria, her supervisor Samuel Carda-Broch highlighted her exceptional capabilities, ability to rapidly learn new skills, her initiative and her innovative approaches.

I'd like to call Maria to the podium to receive her award and tell us about some of the work she has undertaken. I'd also like to call upon Dr Stephen McDonald of Waters Corporation and Dr David Hughes, Publisher of *Bioanalysis* to present the Award.

